



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yoshihiro INABA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1713

Application No.: 10/784,183

Examiner: B. LIPMAN

Filed: February 24, 2004

Docket No.: 118820

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING HYDROXYL GROUP-CONTAINING POLYMER PARTICLES

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

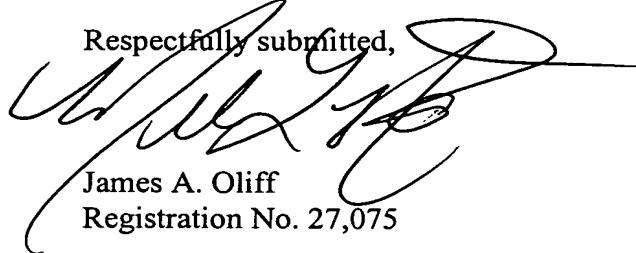
In reply to the March 15, 2006 Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect the (meth)acrylate polymer with the compound including at least two hydroxyl groups and the metal-containing ester-exchange reaction catalyst, recited in claim 1, with traverse. At least claims 1-7 and 9 read on the elected species.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid

unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: March 31, 2006

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